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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production Forecast
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

June 1 Crop Production

Based on June 1 conditions, Montana **winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 41 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's final yield and unchanged from the May 1 forecast. If realized, the total production of 84.05 million bushels would be up 26 percent from last year's 66.8 million bushels due to higher harvested acreage. In the fall of 2004, Montana producers seeded 2.15 million acres of winter wheat, up 250,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year.

As of June 5th, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated much better than a year ago at this time with 3% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, and 15% excellent compared with 6% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent a year ago. The moisture received during May has helped fields hurt by frost damage earlier in the month as well as crop conditions. However, the cool weather is beginning to hinder crop progress as 3 percent of the crop has headed as of June 5th which is behind last year's 13 percent and the five year average of 17 percent.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast but up 3 percent from 2004. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.1 bushels per acre, down 1.3 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from last month. As of May 29, heading had reached 81 percent in the 18 major States, equal to the 5-year average. Progress trailed the average during most of May due primarily to below average temperatures. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the winter wheat growing areas.

Forecasted head counts from the objective yield surveys in the 6 Hard Red Winter States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) are above last year's final counts, except in Oklahoma. The greatest impact on yield since May 1 was seen in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska where yields declined 3, 4, and 2 bushels, respectively. Expectations improved in South Dakota where growers now anticipate a record high crop for both yield and production.

Forecasted head counts from the objective yield surveys in the 3 Soft Red Winter States (Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio) are above last year's final counts in Illinois and Ohio, but lower in Missouri. Indicated head weights are above last year in Missouri and Ohio, but below in Illinois. Cooler than normal temperatures during May slowed crop development across the SRW growing area. Overall, yield expectations remain good, with mostly minor changes from last month.

The Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) received much needed rainfall during May, improving yield prospects. Forecasted head counts from the objective yield survey in Washington are well above average and last year's final counts. The Idaho yield is now forecast at a record high level.

On May 1, thirty percent of the winter wheat crop was headed in the United States, 6 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. By month's end, however, progress had reached the normal pace of 81 percent complete but still trailed last year's pace by 5 points. Heading was well ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest, where warm, moist weather favored development. In the eastern Corn Belt, however, heading lagged behind normal due to cool weather. In the Great Plains, heading progressed at a near-normal pace. Condition of the crop declined throughout the month as freezes, dry weather, and hailstorms took their toll on the crop.

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2005/06 ending stocks of wheat are down 59 million bushels from last month due to smaller beginning stocks and lower production. Beginning stocks are down 14 million bushels with higher projected food use and exports for 2004/05. Forecast winter wheat production is 45 million bushels less than last month because of lower yields. Projected use is unchanged from last month but is down 131 million bushels from last year. The 2005/06 projected price range is $2.65 to $3.15 per bushel, up 10 cents on each end from last month compared with an estimated $3.39 for 2004/05.

The 2005/06 global wheat outlook has shifted modestly from last month with projected production falling, imports increasing, and stocks declining. Foreign production is down 1.6 million tons due mostly to smaller crops in Australia (down 1.5 million), the EU-25, Argentina, India, and Morocco. These declines are partially offset by larger crops in Russia (up 2 million tons) and Turkey. Projected global imports are up fractionally, mostly due to larger imports by Morocco, Tunisia, and Nigeria. The pattern of global exports has shifted from last month with larger exports projected for Russia and Turkey and smaller exports for Australia, Argentina, and India. Global consumption rises fractionally due largely to increased wheat feeding in Russia. Global wheat stocks fall with the largest declines in the United States and Australia.

Except for small increases to U.S. barley exports and oat imports, no other changes are projected for 2004/05 feedgrains relative to last month. Similarly, the outlook for 2005/06 is unchanged from last month for production, use, and prices. The 2005/06 projected price range for corn is $1.55 to $1.95, compared with $2.00 to $2.10 for 2004/05.

The most noteworthy change in the global outlook for 2004/05 is in Brazil with a 2-million-ton reduction in the corn crop, lower imports, smaller feed use and exports, and a 0.4-million-ton drop in ending stocks. The global outlook for 2005/06 is for decreased coarse grains production, lower use, and a moderate drop in stocks relative to last month. Smaller crops are projected in Ukraine (down 1.5 million tons), Russia (down 1 million), Argentina and Australia (each down 0.5 million), and several other countries. (continued on back page)

Barley Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2004

County and District	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted 1/	Harvested	Yield	Production		Planted 1/	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Rank	Acres	Acres	Tons	Tons
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	6,700	6,200	77	478,000	23	2,800	2,600	86	224,000
Granite	1,000	400	80	32,000	48	1,000	400	80	32,000
Lake	3,500	2,500	65	163,000	36	3,000	2,100	67	141,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	600	300	23	7,000	52	--	--	--	--
Powell	3,100	1,200	66	79,000	43	2,800	900	81	73,000
Ravalli	1,300	1,000	84	84,000	42	1,100	800	100	80,000
Sanders	1,000	200	55	11,000	51	--	--	--	--
Other	800	200	50	10,000	--	1,300	200	55	11,000
NORTHWEST	**18,000**	**12,000**	**72**	**864,000**	**--**	**12,000**	**7,000**	**80**	**561,000**
Blaine	26,300	21,000	52	1,102,000	13	5,700	3,600	67	240,000
Chouteau	43,000	42,000	50	2,114,000	6	--	--	--	--
Glacier	101,000	97,000	46	4,455,000	3	12,600	11,500	64	731,000
Hill	20,500	20,000	62	1,239,000	11	--	--	--	--
Liberty	21,500	20,700	38	783,000	17	2,100	1,900	76	144,000
Phillips	28,700	18,300	48	876,000	14	2,300	600	68	41,000
Pondera	118,000	117,000	66	7,729,000	2	46,000	45,600	87	3,956,000
Teton	100,000	99,000	80	7,948,000	1	59,000	58,300	100	5,819,000
Toole	47,000	46,000	43	1,995,000	7	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	900	84	76,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**506,000**	**481,000**	**59**	**28,241,000**	**--**	**129,000**	**122,400**	**90**	**11,007,000**
Daniels	4,200	1,900	56	107,000	39	--	--	--	--
Dawson	22,400	12,200	36	444,000	24	1,500	1,100	101	111,000
Garfield	15,600	3,600	36	129,000	38	--	--	--	--
McCone	19,600	8,100	44	360,000	28	--	--	--	--
Richland	23,300	20,900	61	1,275,000	10	6,200	6,100	102	625,000
Roosevelt	12,100	10,000	67	669,000	20	--	--	--	--
Sheridan	12,600	10,700	62	664,000	21	--	--	--	--
Valley	14,200	9,600	46	438,000	25	3,300	1,500	73	110,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	2,300	104	240,000
NORTHEAST	**124,000**	**77,000**	**53**	**4,086,000**	**--**	**15,000**	**11,000**	**99**	**1,086,000**
Broadwater	9,500	9,400	80	755,000	18	6,200	6,200	101	627,000
Cascade	46,000	44,000	59	2,583,000	4	12,600	12,200	97	1,189,000
Fergus	42,000	33,000	43	1,430,000	9	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	7,900	6,400	30	190,000	33	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	25,500	17,600	45	795,000	16	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	--	6,800	6,200	89	550,000
Meagher	9,500	8,000	61	487,000	22	4,700	3,800	82	313,000
Musselshell	6,700	3,700	38	139,000	37	2,300	400	55	22,000
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	14,400	12,600	25	318,000	29	--	--	--	--
Other	14,500	12,300	64	783,000	--	7,400	3,700	66	246,000
CENTRAL	**176,000**	**147,000**	**51**	**7,480,000**	**--**	**40,000**	**32,500**	**91**	**2,947,000**
Beaverhead	5,700	4,000	102	406,000	26	5,100	3,900	103	403,000
Gallatin	28,900	27,000	80	2,147,000	5	11,000	10,400	93	968,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	4,700	2,500	74	186,000	34	3,600	1,400	91	128,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,700	500	58	29,000	--	1,300	300	73	22,000
SOUTHWEST	**41,000**	**34,000**	**81**	**2,768,000**	**--**	**21,000**	**16,000**	**95**	**1,521,000**
Big Horn	18,200	14,400	86	1,238,000	12	8,800	8,500	108	922,000
Carbon	9,500	8,800	93	816,000	15	8,300	7,900	100	790,000
Park	6,500	4,400	64	281,000	30	4,400	2,600	77	200,000
Stillwater	18,000	8,500	32	273,000	31	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,000	1,700	54	91,000	41	--	--	--	--
Treasure	3,600	3,400	108	367,000	27	3,000	2,900	120	349,000
Yellowstone	23,200	21,800	80	1,740,000	8	14,300	13,900	107	1,492,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3,200	2,000	86	171,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**82,000**	**63,000**	**76**	**4,806,000**	**--**	**42,000**	**37,800**	**104**	**3,924,000**
Carter	13,500	2,300	29	67,000	46	--	--	--	--
Custer	7,000	1,700	56	95,000	40	1,400	800	84	67,000
Fallon	7,000	2,000	28	55,000	47	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,000	2,100	34	72,000	45	--	--	--	--
Prairie	8,500	4,600	38	173,000	35	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	6,100	2,300	103	238,000	32	3,500	2,000	115	229,000
Wibaux	4,900	1,000	25	25,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,100	500	96	48,000
SOUTHEAST	**53,000**	**16,000**	**45**	**725,000**	**--**	**6,000**	**3,300**	**104**	**344,000**
MONTANA	**1,000,000**	**830,000**	**59**	**48,970,000**	**--**	**265,000**	**230,000**	**93**	**21,390,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into “other” counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

April 2005 Prices Received

April 2005 full month crop prices were mixed compared with March 2005. When compared with March 2005, Montana's winter wheat price was $3.40 per bushel, up $0.06; spring wheat price was down $0.26 to $3.46 per bushel; durum wheat prices decreased $0.14 to $3.80 per bushel; feed barley was unchanged at $1.66 per bushel; and malt barley was $3.27 per bushel, up $0.07. Oats were $1.74 per bushel for the full month of April 2005.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay rose $1.00 to $76.00 per ton, but all other hay jumped $6.00 to $73.00 per ton. Mid-May grain prices were mixed when compared with April. The winter wheat price averaging $3.39 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.83 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.66 per bushel, malt barley was $3.37 per bushel and feed barley was $1.67 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mixed when compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were unchanged at $107.00 per cwt, while cows increased $2.00 to a record full-month high $59.50. The average price for calves was $3.00 higher to $134.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $9.00 to $43.40 per cwt and lamb prices fell $10.00 to $115.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.70 per cwt from March to $15.40 per cwt. Mid-month May steer and heifer prices were $109.00 per cwt; cows were a new record high at $62.00 per cwt; calves were also a new record high at $140.00 per cwt; and milk prices were $14.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $3.27, down $0.05, spring wheat was $3.39, down $0.12; durum wheat was $3.63 down $0.04; the all barley price was $2.32, down $0.14; and steer and heifer prices were $98.30, up $2.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $3.13 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.52 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.57 per bushel; all wheat was $3.28 per bushel; malt barley was $3.02 per bushel; feed barley was $1.91 per bushel; and all barley was $2.53. Steer and heifer prices were $96.90 per cwt; cow prices were $58.70, calves were $141.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $55.40 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.469 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from April.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2004	May 2004	April 2005	May 2005
Prices Received	125	129	122	122
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	133	135	139	139
Ratio 2/	94	96	88	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2004	March 2005	April 2005	April 2005	March 2005	April 2004	May 15, 2005	May 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.34	3.40	3.27	+0.06	-0.37	3.39	3.13
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.15	3.94	3.80	3.63	-0.14	-0.35	3.66	3.57
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.99	3.72	3.46	3.39	-0.26	-0.53	3.83	3.52
All Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.57	3.50	3.35	-0.07	-0.43	3.65	3.28
Barley, All	Bu.	2.84	2.72	2.84	2.32	+0.12	NC	2.91	2.53
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.08	1.66	1.66	1.54	NC	-0.42	1.67	1.91
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.17	3.20	3.27	2.74	+0.07	+0.10	3.37	3.02
Oats	Bu.	2.04	N/A	1.74	1.65	N/A	-0.30	N/A	1.58
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	76.00	75.00	103.00	-1.00	+5.00	76.00	116.00
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	69.00	67.00	75.40	-2.00	NC	73.00	76.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	74.00	73.00	96.90	-1.00	+4.00	75.00	107.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	95.20	107.00	107.00	98.30	NC	+11.80	109.00	96.90
Cows	Cwt	52.20	57.50	59.50	57.10	+2.00	+7.30	62.00	58.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	79.70	89.70	86.10	94.00	-3.60	+6.40	83.60	92.90
Calves	Cwt	114.00	131.00	134.00	140.00	+3.00	+20.00	140.00	141.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	34.80	52.40	43.40	44.40	-9.00	+8.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	107.00	125.00	115.00	114.00	-10.00	+8.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.50	14.70	15.40	15.20	+0.70	+0.90	14.70	14.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

World Ag Supply & Demand (continued from front page)

Global coarse grain use in 2005/06 is down fractionally with the largest declines occurring in Russia, Ukraine, and Australia. Consumption is up in Egypt, Iran, and Tunisia. Global imports are down slightly as smaller imports by Turkey, Russia, Indonesia, and Chile are only partially offset by larger imports by Egypt, Morocco, Brazil, and Iran. Exports from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine, and Kazakstan are lower while exports by the EU-25 and South Africa rise. Global ending stocks drop just over 2 million tons with the largest declines occurring in Russia, Ukraine, and Australia. Stocks are up in Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, and several other countries.

U.S. oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 89.2 million tons, unchanged from last month. Soybean production is forecast at 2,895 million bushels, or 78.8 million tons. A projected decrease in 2004/05 soybean ending stocks this month for South America is expected to provide increased U.S. export opportunities. As a result, 2005/06 U.S. soybean exports are increased 10 million bushels to 1,135 million bushels. Prospects for increased exports and reduced soybean supplies result in a slight decrease in soybean crush from last month. U.S. soybean ending stocks are projected at 255 million bushels, down 25 million bushels from last month.

The U.S. season-average soybean price for 2005/06 is projected at $4.95 to $5.95 per bushel, up 25 cents on both ends of the range. Soybean meal prices are projected at $160 to $190 per short ton, up $10.00 on both ends of the range. Soybean oil prices are projected at 20.5 to 23.5 cents per pound, up 0.5 cents on both ends of the range.

Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 377.0 million tons, down 4.1 million tons (1 percent) from 2004/05. Foreign oilseed production is projected at 287.8 million tons, up 3.2 million tons from 2004/05. Global soybean production is projected to increase 3.4 million tons to a record 219.7 million tons. Although U.S. soybean production is expected to decline from last year's record level, a rebound in yields and production in Brazil will push South American soybean production to a record 108 million tons, accounting for just below half of 2005/06 global production. The Brazilian soybean crop is projected at a record 62 million tons, up 17 percent from the drought-reduced 2004/05 crop. Global production of high-oil content seed is down 5 percent as lower rapeseed production is only partly offset by increased sunflower seed production. Rapeseed production is projected lower for China, the EU-25, Canada, and India. Sunflower seed production is higher for Ukraine as producers expand plantings from 2004/05.

Global protein meal consumption is projected to increase 3 percent in 2005/06, primarily due to gains for soybean meal. Protein meal consumption in China is projected to increase 8 percent, with a 15 percent increase in soybean meal more than offsetting decreased consumption of rapeseed and cottonseed meal. World soybean trade increases 7 percent to 65.6 million tons, nearly all of which is due to higher imports for China to a record 27.0 million tons. Global vegetable oil consumption is projected to increase 5 percent for 2005/06 led by gains for China, India, and the EU-25. Global oilseed crush is projected to increase 3 percent, and oilseed stocks are projected to increase 3.5 million tons to a record 58.2 million tons.

Changes for 2004/05 for the U.S. include increased soybean crush and exports and reduced ending stocks. Global soybean ending stocks are also reduced, reflecting the effect of reduced Brazil soybean production for 2003/04. The crop is reduced from 52.6 million tons to 50.5 million tons based on analysis of crush and trade statistics for the marketing year.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
					---Million Bushels---							$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,345	63	2,899	907	80	207	1,193	1,159	2,353	546	3.40
2004 . .	546	2,158	71	2,776	895	79	215	1,189	1,060	2,249	527	3.39
2005 . 3/	527	2,140	70	2,737	890	78	200	1,168	950	2,118	619	2.65-3.15

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Sweet Cherry Production
- Red Meat Production
- Hogs & Pigs
- Grain Stocks
- Crop Acreages

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